

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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P R 281930Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8179
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08041

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, EEC
SUBJECT: FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR ALLIED DEMARCH TO EC
COMMISSION ABOUT JENKINS' VISIT TO BERLIN

(A) USBER 910 (B) USBER 894 (C) USBER 879

BEGIN SUMAMRY. FRANCE HAS PROPOSED IN THE BONN GROUP
THAT THE ALLIES INFORM EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ROY
JENKINS THAT SOME OF HIS REMARKS ON THE EC-BERLIN
RELATIONSHIP MADE DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO WEST BERLIN
WERE NOT HELPFUL. THE OTHER BONN GROUP REPS EXPRESSED
RESERVATIONS ABOUT PARIS' PROPOSAL. THE FRG HAS AGREED
TO OBTAIN A TRANSCRIPT OF JENKINS' REMARKS, SOME OF
WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN DISTORTED BY THE PRESS. UNLESS
OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, WE WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE A
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DEMARCH TO JENKINS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT THE APRIL 25 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE FRENCH REP
(RICHARD) RECALLED THAT AT THE MEETING ON APRIL 19 HE HAD
EXPRESSEO CONCERN ABOUT SOME PUBLIC REMARKS JENKINS HAD
MADE DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO WEST BERLIN (REF C).
ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, JENKINS SAID, AMONG OTHER THINGS,

(1) THAT BERLIN BELONGS TO THE EC; (2) THAT THE EC WOULD LOOK WITH SYMPATHY ON PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EC OFFICES IN BERLIN; (3) THAT BRUSSELS HAD NO INTENTION OF YIELDING TO SOVIET PROTESTS CONCERNING THE EC-BERLIN RELATIONSHIP; AND (4) THAT BERLIN'S POSITION WOULD BE STRENGTHENED BY THE CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENTS BY THE EC WITH CEMA COUNTRIES.

2. RICHARD SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SAY THAT JENKINS SHOULD HAVE QUALIFIED THE FIRST AND SECOND REMARKS WITH A REFERENCE TO ALLIED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. ON THE QUESTION OF SOVIET PROTESTS, IT WAS NOT BRUSSELS BUT THE THREE POWERS, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE FRG, WHO WERE COMPETENT. FINALLY, IT MAY HAVE BEEN COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO COMMENT ON THE EC'S TALKS WITH CEMA COUNTRIES. RICHARD COMMENTED THAT JENKINS' REMARKS HAD WEAKENED SOMEWHAT THE ALLIED POSITION IN RESPONDING TO THE SOVIET PROTEST ABOUT JENKINS' VISIT (REF B).

3. RICHARD SAID PARIS HAD THUS PROPOSED THAT THESE POINTS BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF JENKINS' CABINET. SINCE THE US WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE EC, PARIS FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT THIS DEMARCHE BE MADE BY THE UK ON BEHALF OF FRANCE AND FRG.

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4. THE UK REP (EYERS) RESPONDED THAT HE HAD ALSO BEEN CONCERNED BY SOME OF THE PRESS ACCOUNTS. HE HAD NOT SEEN, HOWEVER, A VERBATIM ACCOUNT OF JENKINS' REMARKS. BEFORE EVEN CONSIDERING AN APPROACH TO THE EC, HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD WANT TO EXAMINE AN EXACT RECORD.

5. RICHARD REPLIED THAT THE FRENCH WERE SEEKING TO LEARN PRECISELY WHAT JENKINS HAD SAID. IT WAS NEVERTHELESS UNLIKELY THAT HE HAD BEEN COMPLETELY MISUNDERSTOOD BY THE PRESS. IN ANY EVENT, HE HAD MADE STATEMENTS WHICH HAD ALLOWED THE PRESS TO MAKE THE INTERPRETATIONS IT DID.

6. THE FRG REP (VON RICHTHOFEN) SAID THAT HIS REPORTS INDICATED THAT THE PRESS HAD MISINTERPRETED JENKINS ON AT LEAST A FEW POINTS. THE FRG HAD THE IMPRESSION THE PRESS HAD REALLY PLAYED UP WHAT HE SAID. AFTER RICHARD HAD MENTIONED HIS PERSONAL CONCERN AT THE APRIL 19 MEETING, THE FRG HAD REQUESTED TRANSCRIPTS OF JENKINS' REMARKS. THESE WERE PRESENTLY BEING PREPARED BY JENKINS' STAFF.

7. EYERS COMMENTED THAT THE PRESS MAY HAVE PLAYED UP

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THE MATTER, BUT SENAT SPOKESMAN SOETJE HAD NOT HELPED AT ALL. SOETJE HAD STATED THAT BERLIN MUST BE INCLUDED FROM THE OUTSET IN EC AGREEMENTS WITH CEMA COUNTRIES. EYERS SAID HE BELIEVED JENKINS' REMARKS, APPARENTLY MADE IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUESTIONS, HAD BEEN UNFORTUNATE BUT PROBABLY INEVITABLE. SOETJE, HOWEVER, HAD UNNECESSARILY RAISED A VERY SENSITIVE POINT. EYERS SAID HE HAD REPORTED THIS TO LONDON, BUT HE HAD RECOMMENDED THAT NOTHING WOULD BE SERVED BY COMPLAINING NOW. LONDON HAD NOT YET REPLIED. HE WOULD REPORT PARIS' PROPOSAL, BUT HE COULD NOT RECOMMEND IT.

8. MEICHSNER OF THE BERLIN REPRESENTATION SAID THAT MAYOR STOBBE HAD TOLD HIM THAT EC-BERLIN MATTERS HAD BEEN PLAYED DOWN TO AN "EXTRAORDINARY DEGREE" BY JENKINS AND THE SENAT. THE SENAT'S IMPRESSION WAS
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THAT JENKINS HAD NOT GONE TOO FAR. HE HAD HAD TO MAKE SOME SORT OF A REPLY TO THE JOURNALISTS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE STRONG PUBLIC OPPOSITION ON THE PART OF THE SOVIETS TO BERLIN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE EC. ALSO, JENKINS HAD NOT MADE HIS REMARKS IN AN EXCHANGE WITH THE SOVIETS, BUT IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS.

9. MEICHSNER SAID THAT HE WAS SURE THAT JENKINS WAS AWARE OF ALLIED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES CONCERNING BERLIN. EVERYONE IN BERLIN KNEW THE ALLIES WERE SUPREME. THIS WAS A MATTER OF COURSE, AND MADE IT UNDERSTANDABLE THAT JENKINS HAD NOT QUALIFIED HIS EVERY REMARK WITH REFERENCES TO THE ALLIES. ON THE OTHER POINTS, JENKINS WAS NOT AN EXPERT ON ALL THE MINUTIAE THE BONN GROUP, NOR COULD WE EXPECT TO MAKE HIM ONE.

10. MEICHSNER SAID HE WOULD INQUIRE ABOUT THE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO SOETJE. HE HAD PROBABLY BEEN SPEAKING FIGURATIVELY TO EMPHASIZE THAT BERLIN MUST BE INCLUDED IN EC-CEMA AGREEMENTS, RATHER THAN TO COMMENT ON WHEN THE SUBJECT OF THE AREA OF APPLICABILITY CLAUSE SHOULD BE RAISED IN INDIVIDUAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EASTERN SIDE. SOETJE WAS NOT EVEN AWARE OF SUCH DETAILS.

11. MEICHSNER ASKED WHAT THE PURPOSE OF SUCH A DEMARCHE COULD BE. HE SAID IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF SUCH A USEFUL VISIT WERE TO BE UNDERMINED AFTER THE FACT. HE ASKED THE BONN GROUP TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE RELATIVELY MINOR OMISSIONS ON THE PART OF JENKINS JUSTIFIED SUCH AN APPROACH.

12. THE US REP COMMENTED THAT RICHARD'S FOURTH POINT WAS PRIMARILY OF CONCERN TO THE THREE EC MEMBERS. ON
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THE OTHER POINTS, THOUGH, HE DID NOT SEE THE PROBLEM IN THE WAY RICHARD DID. JENKINS HAD NOT RAISED THE VERY SENSITIVE ISSUE OF EC DIRECT ELECTIONS. FOR SOMEONE NOT EXPERT IN THE "THEOLOGY" OF BERLIN, HIS REMARKS HAD BEEN NEITHER PROVOCATIVE NOR PARTICULARLY DEMONSTRATIVE. THE SOVIETS WOULD BE ANNOYED NO MATTER WHAT HE DID; THEIR BASIC OBJECTION WAS THAT JENKINS SHOULD EVEN UNDERTAKE TO VISIT BERLIN. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO OBTAIN A VERBATIM ACCOUNT OF HIS REMARKS, BUT, EVEN IF THE TRANSCRIPT CONFIRMED THAT WHICH JENKINS WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE SAID, THE US REP DOUBTED THAT THE US WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF THE FRENCH

PROPOSAL. HE SAID THAT CONTINUED EC INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT FOR BERLIN WAS IMPORTANT TO THE CITY'S VIABILITY. VISITS LIKE THAT OF JENKINS ARE PSYCHOLOGICALLY IMPORTANT TO BERLIN. A DEMARCHE SUCH AS THE ONE THE FRENCH WERE PROPOSING COULD DISCOURAGE HIM FROM SUCH FUTURE VISITS.

13. RICHARD CONCLUDED THAT PARIS SIMPLY FELT JENKINS SHOULD HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE CAUTIOUS. HAD HE RECALLED ALLIED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO PROBLEM AT ALL.

14. COMMENT: WE SEE NO BASIS FOR A DEMARCHE TO JENKINS AND, UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE SUCH A DEMARCHE.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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